ARTICLES OF INQVIRY

Concerning MATTERS

Eccleſiaſtical:

EXHIBITED

To the Miniſters, Church-Wardens, and Side-men of every Pariſh within the Dioceſſe of

LICHFIELD and *COVENTRY*;

In the firſt EPISCOPAL VISITATION OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God

JOHN

By Divine Providence

Lord Biſhop of *LICHFIELD* and *COVENTRY*,

In the firſt year of his Conſecration, *An. Dom.* 1662.

LONDON, Printed for *John Place*. 1662.

The Oath to be given unto the Church-wardens, and Sidsmen, of every Parish.

YOu ſhall Swear to inquire with the beſt diligence that you may, and to make a true Anſwer unto every Article of this Book now given you in Charge; Preſenting every Perſon of your Pariſh that hath done any Offence, or omitted any Duty, therein mentioned. And this you ſhall do, without any Favour or hatred, or fear of Diſpleaſure; *So help you God, and the contents of his Holy Goſpel.*

ARTICLES OF INQUIRY

Within the

DIOCESS of *LITCHFIELD* and *COVENTRY*.

Inquiries about the Church and Church-yard.

I. ARE your Parish-Church and Chancel decently kept for Gods Honour? Are the Roofs, Walls, Pavements, and Windows well repaired? are the Ten Commandements, Lords Prayer, and the Creed, drawn out in fair Letters, in convenient places? and are the Kings Arms set up?

II. HAVE you made Leables for the reparation of the Church, and other holy uses? And are there any that refuse to pay the proportion leavied upon them?

III. HAVE you a Font of Stone decently covered, standing towards the lower end of the Church, for the Ad-

miniſtration of Baptiſm? Have you a comely Table placed conveniently in Church or Chancel for the uſe of the Lords Supper? Have you a comely Carpet of Silk or good Stuff for that holy Table, with a fair Linnen Cloth to ſpread upon it in the time of Adminiſtration? And have you an handſome Cup of Silver for the Wine, and a Cover of Silver to the ſame to put the Bread on? And have you one or more Flaggons of Pewter or better metall for that uſe?

IV. ARE your reading Desk and Pulpit conveniently ſet up, and placed, for the uſe of publick Prayer and Sermons? And hath your Pulpit a Cuſhion, and comely covering before it?

V. HAVE you in your Church the Common-Prayer-Book of the largeſt Volume, ſet forth by Authority, with the Books of Divine Service for the fifth of November, the thirtieth of January, and the nine and twentieth of May? And have you the Bible in Folio, fairly bound, of King James's Tranſlation? Have you alſo a decent Surplice, (one or more) for your Parſon, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, to wear in the time of all publick Miniſtrations?

VI. ARE the Tombs, Monuments, or Grave-ſtones of the Dead in your Church, or Church-yard, preſerved, and not ſuffered to be broken, taken down, or removed?

VII. HAVE you a Book of Parchment, wherein be Regiſtred the Chriſtnings, Marriages, and Burials in your Pariſh? Have you a ſtrong Cheſt, with three Locks, wherein to preſerve your Church Furniture? and a Box for Alms, placed in a fit place for the Relief of the Poor?

VIII. IS the Houſe and Out-houſes of your Miniſter in good and ſufficient repair? Doth he preſerve the Gardens,

dens, Orchards, and Glebe belonging to him, without embezzling, changing, or any way dammifying them?

IX. IS the Church-yard decently kept, and well fenced to keep out Beasts?

Inquiries about the Parson, Vicar, Curate, Lecturer.

I. HAVE the above-named received Episcopal Ordination, according to the Laws of the Kingdome?

II. CAN you tell who did present your Parson, or Vicar, to his Benefice? Have you heard, or known, that he came Simoniacally? Was he inducted into his Benefice before sufficient witness? And did he read the nine and thirty Articles before or at Morning or Evening Prayer? And did he give his consent to them?

III. HATH he read the Book of Common-Prayer as it is injoyned by the late Act of Uniformity for publick Prayer, Administration of the Sacraments, &c. on some Sunday before the four and twentieth of August last past, and did, and doth he wear the Surplice while he perform'd that Office, and other Offices mentioned in that Common-Prayer-Book?

IV. HATH he publish'd his consent unto the said Book on some Sunday before the 24th. of August above-named, openly in time of Divine Service, and hath he subscribed to the Declaration as it is exprest in the 77. page of the above-named Statute, and manifested it to the Congregation openly?

V. DOTH

V. DOTH he Preach a Sermon on every Sunday, or procure a Sermon then to be Preach'd? Or else sometimes read one of the Homilies which the Church hath appointed? And doth he often on Sundays and Holy-days before Divine Service, instruct his Parishioners in the Catechism of the Church?

VI. DOTH he read the Service appointed for the fifth of November, thirtieth of January, twenty-ninth of May? and doth he keep the yearly Perambulation and Rogation daies before the Feast of our Lords Ascension?

VII. IF your Parson or Vicar keep a Curate, is he of godly Life and sufficient Learning? Is he allowed by the Bishop, and can you tell whether the said Curate have a competent allowance according to the value of the Living?

VIII. DOTH your Parish maintain a Lecturer? Is he a Vertuous and Orthodox Divine? Is he Licensed by the Bishop? Doth he read the full Divine Service of Common-Prayer once a Moneth at the least, wearing a Surplice?

IX. DO you observe, to your best understanding, that your Parson, Vicar, Lecturer, or Curate, do Preach the true Word of God? Or do they, to your judgment, (having consulted with other grave Parishioners,) vent dangerous Opinions, derogating to the Glory of God, and a pious Life? Do they teach Sedition directly against his Majesty, his Laws, and Government, or do you note, that indirectly they cast out Seditious glances against the Civil State, or Government Ecclesiastical?

X. DOTH your Minister celebrate the Lords Supper in the Church, according to the Service of the Common-Prayer-Book, often every year? Doth he repulse them from it that are scandalous by the sentence of the Laws

Laws? Doth he Baptize such Infants of his Parish according to the Service of the Common-Prayer, as, upon warning given before, are brought on Sundays or Holy-days to the Church with God-fathers and God-mothers, and upon lawfull Summons doth he Baptize Infants at home in case of danger and necessity?

*XI. DOTH he visit the Sick at their Houses, when he is required, upon lawfull Summons? Doth he Pray with them, Exhort them to faith and repentance, and comfort them? Doth he give them the Holy Communion, professing faith in Christ, and sorrow for their sins, if they require it; and doth he Exhort them to Brotherly Love, and works of Charity, if they be able to bequeath a portion to pious uses?

XII. DOTH he prepare the young Men and Maidens of the Parish to be confirmed by the Bishop? Doth he Marry none clandestinely, but at due hours in the Church, and that upon Banes thrice publish'd on Sundays or Holy-days, or Licence obtained from the Spiritual Court? And doth he bury the Dead according to the Book of Common-Prayer?

XIII. IS your Minister, Lecturer, Curate, a man of sober, chast, just, unblameable Life? and spare not to present him, or them, that are not every way examples of Godliness.

XIV. DOTH your Minister with the Church-wardens take care duely every year, to send in the names of all such in his Parish, as have been Baptized, Married, Buried, Excommunicated, that they may be enrolled in the Bishops Registry?

XV. DOTH your Minister maintain peace with his Neighbours? and study to keep them in peace as much as in him lies? Doth he take diligent care to reduce all Sectaries,

Sectaries, Separatists, and Refractory persons to the obedience of the Doctrine and Government of this Church? And doth he offer himself being an able Learned man, to conser with Popish Recusants to convert them, and to bring them into the bosom of this Church?

Inquiries about the Parishioners.

I. DO all your Parishioners of due Age resort to the Divine Service and Sermons in your Church on Sundays and Holy-days? and on Wednesday and Friday mornings, if conveniently they can?

II. DO they or any of their servants occupy themselves in bodily Labours on Sundays or Holy-days? do they open their Shops and sell Wares on those daies? or do Victners, Victuallers, Inn-keepers, or others, receive any into their Houses to tipple and waste time idely on those daies? except they be Travellers that are upon a Journey in necessary occasions.

III. DO your Parishioners in the time of Divine Service, Sermon, or Homily, behave themselves reverently? Men and Youths with their Hats off, both Sexes giving due attention, none disturbing holy Duties, by talking, walking, removing, going out, or using any other offence? and do they all kneel, stand up, make answers in time of Divine Service, as you find it appointed in the Rubricks of the Common-Prayer-Book?

IV. SUCH as may be discerned to be Papists, Hereticks, Schismaticks, Anabaptists, Separatists, Quakers and the like, are not only to be presented, but twelve pence is to be Leavied on every such person, and so many of them for every Sunday as absent themselves from the Church,

and

and to be employed to the maintenance of the Poor, where-of account is to be made to the Justices of the Peace.

V. SUCH are to be presented as are known and much suspected to be Incestuous, or to be Married in Incestuous or unlawfull degrees of Blood; likewise you ought to present known Adulterers, Fornicators, Blasphemers, common Swearers, Drunkards, Sorcerers, or Resorters to Sorcerers.

VI. ARE there any above the Age of sixteen years in your Parish, and especially that have been examined by your Minister in the Catechism before, that do not come to the Lords Supper, to partake it reverently upon their knees three times every year at the least, the Feast of Easter, or the time thereabout, being one?

VII. ARE there any in your Parish that keep their Children unbaptized? enquire diligently, and return the Parents or Governors names, and the list of those Children by such names as you can learn.

VIII. DO all Women that have been safely delivered come to the Church in due time to partake of the Office of Thanksgiving after the Orders of the Common-Prayer, and do such Women pay their accustomed Duties?

IX. DO your Parishioners bring their Dead to be decently Buried after the Service of the Church in their own Parish grounds? or if they carry the Dead away to be Buried in some other place, whether they be Lodgers, or other Strangers, do they first obtain leave of the Minister of the Parish, and have his Certificate?

X. DO any of your Parish usually frequent other Parish Churches, and absent themselves from their own?

XI. ARE there any that keep private Conventicles in their Houses, or abroad, which are resorted to, by those that are known or suspected for Sectaries, or any way disaffected to the present Church of England?

XII. DO your Parishioners pay their Easter Offerings, and accustomed Duties, called Vicarage Tithes, or by any other name, to their Minister?

XIII. ARE there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish, that are not proved by a lawful Judge, or do you know or hear of any goods administred without due grant from the Ordinary?

XIV. WHAT Legacies have been given to pious uses in your Parish, which are utterly defrauded or not employed to the right use according to the Will of the Donor?

XV. ARE your Seats and Pews in the Church decently kept? And are the Parishioners placed in them without offence and contention?

Inquiries about Church-Officers, and other Persons.

I. IF any Stranger come to Preach in your Parish Church or Chapel, on Sundays and Holy-days, at Christnings, Funerals, Marriages, or any other occasion, do the Church-wardens demand to see his Orders and Licence to Preach which he had from the Bishop: and if he can shew none, do you inhibit him from Preaching?

II. DO

II. DO you ſuffer excommunicated Perſons to be Buried in any part of your Church, Chancel, or Church-yard?

III. DOTH your Parish Clark, and Sexton, (if you have any ſuch) do their Duties obediently and diligently? Are they of honeſt Life and Converſation? Is your Parish Clark duely choſen by the Miniſter? And is he allowed by the Ordinary? Can he write and read? Doth he make Reſponſions to the Hymns and other Suffrages of the Liturgy?

IV. IS there a School publick or private in your Parish? Is the School-Maſter, (and Uſher if he have one) allowed by the Biſhop or his Chancellour? Doth he breed his Scholars Religiouſly? and doth he teach them the Church Catechiſm?

V. HAVE you any Phyſician, Chirurgion, or Midwife in your Parish, that practiſe without Licence?

VI. ARE your Church-wardens duely choſen in the week after Eaſter day, and after the cuſtom and manner of the Parish?

VII. HAVE the Church-wardens, who are to ſurrender their places upon the Election of new ones, given up their accounts to the Pariſhioners? and are their accounts allowed? or have they falſified their truſt? wherein? and how much?

VIII. ALSO have your Church-wardens been diligent to repair the Church, to keep it decent and comely? Have they preſerved the Font for Baptiſm fit and handſome for that uſe, likewiſe have they look'd carefully to the Communion Table, to the Plate, and all Utenſils pertaining

taining to it? And have they provided such fine white Bread, and good Wine, as was fit for the Sacrament, according to advice taken with the Minister?

LEt the Church-wardens and Side-men inquire Diligently what answers they will and can give to all these particulars upon Oath, setting the fear of God and the good of his Church before their Eyes.

FINIS.